



S. A. L. General Membership Meeting Minutes

On October 21, 2015, the monthly meeting of the Sons of the American Legion Veterans Memorial Squadron 347 was held at 6:30 pm in Post 347 Hall.

The Adjutant checked membership cards at the door for those in attendance. There were 28 members in attendance including 9 potential new members and 8 members from the Executive Committee.

The colors were posted and the American Flag was saluted. Commander Stroud was absent (sick) and the meeting was led by 1st Vice Commander Gerry Beauchamp. Sergeant at Arms Deano Mosingo put the POW-MIA Flag in place, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Chaplain Jack Dirga gave the opening prayer. Everyone then stood in silence for our fallen comrades and Veterans followed with the reading of the Preamble. Commander Butch Stroud, Finance Officer Bill Spriet and Immediate Past Commander Richard Duncan were all sick and not present.

The minutes from the General Membership Meeting held on September 16, 2015 and from the Executive Committee Meeting held on October 7, 2015 were emailed to the membership and posted at the door prior to this meeting for the membership to review. There were no corrections to the minutes. Second Vice-Commander Blanchard made a motion to accept the minutes as posted from the General Membership Meeting. Motion seconded by Tom Soeder. Motion carried.

Norm Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes as posted from the Executive Committee Meeting. Motion seconded by Bill Gray. Motion carried.

Finance Officer Spriet was absent. The finance report was read by Adjutant Standfest. Jack Dirga made a motion to accept the report as read. Seconded by Bill Gray. Motion carried.

Old Business-

First Vice Commander Gerry Beauchamp made an announcement that Squadron 347 received \$2000 for participating in the golf outing that was held on September 25th. Past Commander Duncan was absent and unable to update the membership on the progress of the committee he chairs that is working on a standing rule regarding how our voting for officers at conventions will be handled in the future.

Gary Bishop gave an update on how the detail at St Timothy's Church where our squadron assisted in the parking of cars for the Lady Lake Chamber of Commerce Shop Local Expo that was held on September 30th. He had 12 people volunteer and only 4 showed up. He recommends that the coordinator of any event call and/or email the

volunteers just prior to the detail he is coordinating because people have been forgetting when events are taking place. Gary also recommends that our squadron not participate in this event in the future.

Gary Blanchard gave a summary of the Harvest Dance. Our squadron earned \$1120 from this dance. He made a motion to send the proceeds from this event to the Habitat for Humanity Veterans Initiative. 1st Vice Commander Beauchamp & Judge Advocate Charlie McGlone both pointed out that the procedure is to first bring this motion in front of the Executive Committee. Gary will make this motion at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Gary Blanchard announced the upcoming Halloween Dance to be held on October 31st and requested volunteers to assist in setting up and tearing down before and after the dance.

Gary Blanchard had presented guidelines on new member orientation at the last executive committee meeting and asked members of the executive committee to review this and contact him with any suggestions. To this date, Gary has received no suggestions or comments.

Bill Gray updated the membership on the scholarship committee. He announced that two scholarships were awarded at the Leesburg High School (one for \$2000 & one for \$1000). Two scholarships were also awarded at the Lake Weir (one for \$2000 & one for \$1000). He has received two thank you letters from the recipients of the scholarships at the Lake Weir HS and none from the Leesburg HS. Bill recommended that if we run low on money at the time scholarships are awarded that we do not cut back on the dollar amount of each scholarship, but that we award the scholarships at the high school from where we received thank you notes. He feels that the scholarships are not as appreciated at the Leesburg HS as they are at the Lake Weir HS because of the large number of scholarships that are awarded at the Leesburg HS. Bill also thanked all of the members on the Scholarship Committee (Charlie McGlone, George Worton, Art Hodge, Jack Dirga and Bill Gray) for all of the work.

New Business--

Tom Soeder announced that the commander of Squadron 242 died and that Bob Koger's wife (from Post 286) died suddenly. He asked that sympathy cards be sent to these men. Chaplain Jack Dirga will handle this request.

Tom Soeder made the following announcements: the District 6 meeting will be on December 5th at 9am at Post 347. The District 6 Fall Conference will be held on November 14 & 15 at the Walt Disney World Hilton Hotel. The District 6 picnic will be at Post 183 on March 3, 2016 in Castleberry FL.

First Vice Commander asked for volunteers for serving coffee & donuts at the VA facility on SR-42 on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Willing volunteers are to contact Gary Blanchard who is coordinating this detail.

Danny Adams announced the Arts & Crafts show that will be in the Post 347 hall on December 19th. He asked for willing volunteers to contact him to assist in setting up, tearing down and monitoring vendors & guests during the day.

New Members – Member at Large Gary Bishop read the names of nine potential new members (Vernie Burns, Mark Amsden, George Callaghan, Peter Nankervis, Alex

Nankervis, Douglass White, Milton Silverman, Anthony Pisano & Daniel Roe). The four that were present (Douglass White, Milton Silverman, Anthony Pisano & Daniel Roe) introduced themselves. Bill Preston made a motion to accept the new members whose names were read; seconded by Danny Adams. Motion carried. Gary Blanchard will present new member packets to each new member who is present.

Correspondence—

Bill Gray received thank you notes from the two scholarship recipients at the Lake Weir HS. Gary Blanchard received a thank you note for a rebuilt laptop for a veteran whose laptop was stolen. This laptop is a refurbished laptop that Tom Soeder and George Worton rebuilt for this veteran (Chris Adams).

There was then an announcement by Tom Soeder and he and George Worton are asking for old laptops. They rebuild laptop computers and will donate them to veterans in need of a laptop.

Adjutant Standfest announced that we received notification that we have reached 64.04% of our membership goal.

Adjutant Standfest announced that we received a thank you letter for our \$500 donation to the Legacy Fund.

Good of the SAL--

Legion First Vice Commander Al Varrone announced that the Early Bird dinner will be held on December 6th from 1pm to 3pm, the legion is putting on a Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day for \$12 per plate. Doors open at 1pm and food is served at 2pm. The Saturday morning breakfasts have started and are held on the second Saturday of the month. The next one is on November 14th from 7am to 11am.

Joe Francis expressed his feelings on the emailed minutes from the meetings. He feels this is a positive change and that it gives members time to review the minutes of the previous meeting as well as being informed of what is discussed during the Executive Committee meetings.

Meeting was properly closed at 7:05pm with prayer given by Chaplain Jack Dirga, retirement of the POW-MIA flag by Sgt At Arms Deano Mosingo and salute of the flag.

Yours in God and Country

Timothy Standfest, Adjutant